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PRÉCIS OF CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING, PRIMARILY, TO THE BUILDINGS AT  
SOUTH KENSINGTON.

1870.  
Treasury (Mr. Stansfeld)  
to Department, 3rd March.

Treasury have decided to place all State Works and Buildings as far as practicable under the charge of the First Commissioner of Works. They understand that the Lord President concurs in such an arrangement with regard to the Building and Works at South Kensington, and the First Commissioner will be ready to confer with his Lordship in order to carry it into effect.

Mr. Forster to Treasury,  
7th March.

While prepared to concur, on general grounds, in the new arrangement, My Lords do not think that, as regards South Kensington, it will prove more economical than the system hitherto in force, which reflects great credit on the Officers of the Science and Art Department. It is very important that the system of employing students on the ornamentation of the buildings should not be materially interfered with, and My Lords will at once proceed to arrange with the First Commissioner of Works upon this subject. Their Lordships understand that it is not proposed to entrust to the Board of Works the supply of Furniture or Fittings, or the management of internal alterations or repairs, or the provision of Fuel and Light; but to avoid any misunderstanding, they must state that in their opinion these arrangements should remain unchanged.

Treasury (Mr. Law) to  
Department, 19th March.

The existing arrangements as to Furniture, Fittings, Fuel, and Light will continue, but the repair and maintenance of the Buildings will be handed over, with the Buildings themselves, to the Office of Works.

Mr. Forster to Treasury,  
22nd March.

My Lords deprecate transfer of repair and maintenance of Buildings to Board of Works, as announced in Treasury letter of 19th March. The peculiar circumstances of the South Kensington Museum, as regards contents, construction, hours of opening, and supervision, render it essential that the Department should have complete control of, and be solely responsible for, the charge of the buildings as well as their contents. Otherwise My Lords would hesitate to be responsible for many valuable articles in the Museum, and more especially to receive loans of jewels, etc., from private persons. Trust Treasury will, under these circumstances, reconsider proposed transfer of repair and maintenance.

Treasury (Mr. Stansfeld)  
to Department, 5th April.

Treasury regret they cannot concur. The employment of two sets of workmen, one for repairs, etc., and the other on the Buildings themselves, by two different Departments, would be very inconvenient, and Treasury proposal must therefore be carried out.

Mr. Forster to Treasury,  
8th April.

Replying to Treasury letter of 5th April, My Lords are so impressed with the undesirability of transferring the repair and maintenance of the Buildings at South Kensington from their control to that of any other Department, that they must submit the enclosed memoranda, viz., (1) on the Buildings and their maintenance at the South Kensington Museum, (2) on the present mode of carrying on the Maintenance and Repair of the Buildings,—one by the Director of the Museum (the late Sir



1870. Henry Cole, K.C.B.,) and the other by an Assistant Director (Capt., now Major-Gen., Festing)—the perusal of which will, it is hoped, induce Treasury to maintain the existing arrangements. In these memoranda it is, in substance, argued that no economy would result from the change, which would on the contrary cost more, and lead to grave public disadvantages, throwing into confusion what has hitherto worked well and cheaply: and moreover that the line of demarcation between New Buildings in course of erection, and Buildings in occupation must necessarily be so plain and well defined that there could be no possible inconvenience to the public service in having the "Maintenance and Repair" of the latter in charge of a separate authority from the former.
- Treasury (Mr., now Lord, Lingen) to Department, 7th May. With reference to previous correspondence, Director of Works and Public Buildings will visit South Kensington Museum, and after inspection, and conference with Department Officers, arrange details of transfer to First Commissioner of Works.
- Treasury (Mr. Law) to Department, 30th August. Encloses copy of letter dated 25th August, and signed by Mr. Stronge, which Treasury have sent to First Commissioner of Works, as to regulating relative duties and responsibilities of Science and Art Department and Office of Works.
1873. Mr. Forster to Treasury, 3rd December. Calls attention to the question of the New Buildings and requests that First Commissioner of Works may be instructed to provide for their construction. Appends a Plan and Return to an Address of the House of Commons, dated 28th April 1870, for "Copy of any Letters between the Science and Art Department and the Treasury on the subject of the Estimate, Plans and Models of the future Buildings at South Kensington, since the 22nd day of October 1869." (This Parliamentary Paper deals exhaustively with the whole question of the Buildings, and more especially with the urgent need for their construction. It records, *inter alia*, the further amount £106,000 required at the time (1869-70) for completing the work, and the preparation of a model meeting the recommendations of the Select Committee of 1860. The question of the comparative cost of British and South Kensington Museum Buildings is also dealt with.)
- Treasury (Mr. Law) to Department, 19th December. Treasury reply that they see no necessity for undertaking these works immediately, and are not prepared to consent to any expenditure for the purpose at present.
1874. Memorandum by Mr. MacLeod, 5th Dec. On Friday the 10th July 1874 the Lord President (Duke of Richmond), the Vice-President (Lord Sandon), the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir Stafford Northcote), the First Commissioner of Works (Lord Henry G. Lennox), and the Secretary of the Treasury (Mr. W. H. Smith), met by appointment at the South Kensington Museum in order to inspect General Scott's Plans and Models for proposed New Buildings. Our plan was generally approved, and General Scott was directed to make certain alterations upon it for future consideration.
1875. The Duke of Richmond to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, 13th August. Encloses copy of a letter (from Sir F. R. Sandford) which, by His Grace's direction, was addressed to the First Commissioner of Works on the 1st January 1875, requesting that, in order that the preliminary plans, estimates, etc., for proposed completion of South Kensington Museum buildings might be carried out, and be sufficiently advanced for a decision before 1876-77, a sum of £2000 might be taken in Office of Works Estimates for making the necessary Drawings, Estimates and Models. These, which have been made by General Scott, in constant consultation with the Officers of the Science and Art



1875.

Department, show that the designs meet the requirements of the Museum, and have been approved by the Duke. The design has also from time to time been examined and modified by the First Commissioner of Works, and it is stated that, owing to the remarkable merit of General Scott's original plans and the skill shown in preparing a model, which has been accepted without any material alteration, it will be unnecessary to spend the whole of the £2000 on the preliminary work. It is therefore requested that, as soon as he has finally approved the designs, the First Commissioner may be authorized to cause the working drawings for the South East Wing to be proceeded with as far as they can be carried out without exceeding the £2000.

Treasury (Mr. Stronge) to  
Department, 23rd August.

Treasury have authorized First Commissioner of Works to proceed with working drawings as requested in Duke of Richmond's letter of 13th August, but it should be understood that, while sanctioning the preparation of these drawings, the final approval of the plans by His Grace and the First Commissioner of Works is not to be considered as in any way committing the Treasury now or hereafter to the completion of the Buildings at South Kensington.

1876.

Treasury (Mr. Law)  
to Department, 1st June.

Encloses copy of a letter of same date (1st June) to First Commissioner of Works, with regard to the buildings for the extension of the South Kensington Museum, and to the completion of the plans and models recently in course of preparation. In this letter the Treasury inform the First Commissioner that They have been in communication with the Science and Art Department, and that it has been decided to carry out the extensions, including an Art Library, and the erection of a Façade on the South side of the Museum, according to a limited plan, the cost of which is not to exceed in the whole £80,000. The expenditure will be spread over some three or four years. So much of it may be incurred at once as is necessary to complete the plans and models recently prepared, and the First Commissioner is therefore authorized to continue the employment of General Scott and his Staff on this service. Treasury will before the end of the session present to Parliament an estimate of the sum required to meet the cost of the service up to 31st March next, the amount to be settled after further communication with the Education Department but not to exceed £5000, which Treasury understand would be enough to cover Draughtsmen's salaries, Surveyors' fees, and laying of foundations of New Buildings. If necessary, an advance would be made out of Civil Contingencies Fund to meet current expenditure until the Vote can be taken in the House of Commons.

Treasury (Mr. Law)  
to Department, 7th July.

Submits, for opinion of Lords of Committee of Council on Education, copy of letter dated 21st June 1876 from General Scott, proposing, on behalf of Commissioners for 1851 Exhibition, to erect a building to contain a Science Museum, Examination Rooms, and a National Scientific Library, at a cost not exceeding £100,000, and on conditions specified in detail.

Sir Francis Sandford  
to Treasury, 13th July.

My Lords have read with pleasure General Scott's letter of 21st June—a copy of which accompanied Treasury letter of 7th July. Trust Government will not feel any difficulty in accepting Commissioners' offer; but with respect to third condition, and possible administrative difficulties as to cession of certain portions of Galleries, it might be better not to accept this condition unreservedly but to leave question of access to Horticultural Gardens for future negotiations.



1876.

Sir Francis Sandford  
to Treasury, 16th August.

Forwards printed Memorial and copy of correspondence between the Lord President (Duke of Richmond and Gordon), the Lord Chancellor, and the Master of the Rolls respecting the proposed formation of a Museum of Science. This Memorial, dated June 1876, and numerous signed by eminent men of science, was presented to the Lord President on the 17th July 1876, by a Deputation consisting of the President and Treasurer of the Royal Society, accompanied by Mr. Siemens and Dr. Burdon Sanderson. It strongly urges the creation of a Science Museum, of which the existing collection, and objects remaining over from the Loan Collection of Scientific Apparatus, would form the nucleus, to be supplemented by contributions from the Patent Museum, and other public and private sources. In support of their views, the Memorialists quote Sec. 93 of 4th Report of Royal Commission on Scientific Instruction, recommending the formation of a Collection of Physical and Mechanical Instruments, and suggesting that it might, together with the Patent Museum Collection and the Scientific and Educational Department of the South Kensington Museum, be placed under the authority of a Minister of State. They also refer to the offer of the Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851 to erect a building for the purpose contemplated in this Memorial, and point out that the purchase of objects need not entail any large outlay of public money.

Sir Francis Sandford  
to Treasury, 19th December.

With reference to his letter of 16th August 1876, enclosing a Memorial *in re* Science Museum, and to the offer of the Commissioners of the 1851 Exhibition to build such a Museum, requests that, in order to prevent dispersion of scientific apparatus presented or to be presented from the Loan Exhibition, the Department may be allowed to continue for the present to occupy the Galleries where these Scientific Instruments now are, and exhibit them like other objects in the South Kensington Museum.

Treasury  
(Mr. W. H. Smith) to  
Department, 21st December.

In reply to letter from Sir Francis Sandford of 19th December (adverting to a previous one of 16th August) Treasury, while advising immediate closing of Scientific Exhibition, suggest keeping together objects given—or to be given—to the Nation. This would give time to consider offer of 1851 Exhibition Commissioners to build a Science Museum.

1878.

Mr. Norman MacLeod  
to Treasury, 25th February.

Referring to certain alterations made by the Office of Works, the Lord President objects that no formal notice should have been given to him of structural changes proposed to be made in buildings occupied by officers and students connected with a Department and great Public Institution for whose efficiency the Lord President, for the time being, is primarily, and in the eyes of the public, solely responsible. The Lord President therefore requests that in any future similar case he may be duly consulted before anything is done.

Vice-President  
to Treasury, 9th August.

At a meeting of the Royal Commission of Exhibition of 1851, held at Marlborough House, it was asked whether Government had taken any steps with regard to appointing an Inter-Departmental Committee to consider Commissioners' offer to build a Science Museum, and other similar subjects, as promised by Sir Stafford Northcote last year. In the absence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer the Vice-President informed H.R.H. the President (Prince of Wales) that nothing had been done as yet, but that he heard the subject was to be proceeded with during the recess. My Lords trust this may be so, and that another year may not pass without the appointment of a Committee on which the Treasury, Board of Works, and Education Department should be represented.



1878.  
Mr. MacLeod  
to Treasury, 19th November.

Adverting to Vice-President's letter of 9th August last, submits subjects to be referred to proposed Inter-Departmental Committee, *inter alia* "whether the offer of the Commissioners of 1851 for the erection of a Science Museum can be made so practicable as to render its acceptance advisable." My Lords would be represented by the Vice-President. Who would represent Treasury?

1879.  
Treasury  
(Sir H. Selwin-Ibbetson)  
to Department, 7th March.

In reply to Mr. MacLeod's letter of 19th November 1878, Treasury transmit copy of a letter from the Commissioners for the 1851 Exhibition of 15th November 1878, and of their (Treasury) answer, dated 5th March 1879, from which it will be seen that Treasury refuse Commissioners' offer to build a Science Museum, and Library, etc., at South Kensington, and have consequently abandoned the proposal to have the subject investigated by a Committee. They think that, for the present at any rate, the development of the Science Branch of the South Kensington Museum must be left to its normal growth.

1880.  
Sir Francis Sandford  
to Office of Works,  
6th September.

Suggests, by direction of the Lord President, that General Scott should be employed to prepare drawings and an estimate for South West Wing of New Buildings of Department at South Kensington.

Treasury (Mr. Law)  
to Department, 29th Sept.

With reference to Sir Francis Sandford's letter of 6th September to the Office of Works, about the South West Wing of the New Buildings, Treasury state that they have not sanctioned any further extension beyond that authorized in their letter of 1st June 1876, at a cost not exceeding £80,000. As £15,000 has already been provided in Vote for current year, and £35,939 is wanted to complete the work, it is not probable it will be finished before 31st March 1883, and there does not therefore seem to be any immediate necessity for considering, until such completion, what further buildings, if any, shall be undertaken. But before considering the question of any further extension, Treasury would like to have a plan showing progress made with buildings marked on plan enclosed, with Parliamentary Paper, No. 218, of 1870; also information as to position and purposes of proposed additions, and whether latter will complete scheme for buildings at South Kensington, so far as can at present be foreseen.

Sir Francis Sandford  
to Treasury, 30th November.

In reply to Treasury letter of 29th September, which was written in consequence of Department's letter of 6th September to Office of Works as above, states that the suggestion to employ General Scott was made in order that My Lords might have plans and estimates which they might consider before asking Treasury to sanction extension of buildings. These buildings are meant to receive the increasing Art Collections of the Department.

Plan enclosed in Parliamentary Paper 218, of 1870, was superseded by one determined on by Government in 1874. Herewith are a sketch plan and memorandum by General Scott, showing portions of buildings already finished, those now in progress, and what remains to be executed to complete the whole structure. In this memorandum it is stated that the approximate cost of the buildings including the fittings and ordinary decorations will be about £170,000; and they could be completed in five years from the date of the commencement of the work. The preparation of the preliminary plans and estimates by General Scott will not entail any fresh grant from Treasury.

Treasury  
(Lord Frederick Cavendish)  
to Department, 18th Dec.

With reference to Sir Francis Sandford's letter of 30th November, observe that as it is not probable that the buildings now being erected will be completed before



1880.

31st March 1883, Treasury are not at present prepared to sanction the erection of further buildings, the cost of which is roughly estimated at £170,000. Before Treasury accept this further proposed extension of buildings, a careful enquiry should be made to ascertain definitively what further extension of space is required.

1882.

Treasury (Lord Frederick Cavendish) to Department,  
3rd January.

Encloses copy of letter, dated 17th December 1881, from Office of Works, commenting on expenditure on New Department Buildings, and the possible necessity of postponing further development of Museum; and suggesting that services of General Scott and Staff should be dispensed with. Treasury endorse this suggestion.

Mr. Mundella to Treasury,  
11th January.

In reference to above, dwells upon the inadequacy of present accommodation, and the absolute necessity of progressing with the buildings. Memo. *in re* from Director of Museum enclosed. The Department is called upon to surrender the Western Galleries, but what is to be done with their contents? This question has been reported upon by two influential committees, and is still under consideration. With regard to General Scott, his employment has been both a satisfactory and an economical arrangement. A Memo. *in re* prepared by him in 1880 is also enclosed.

Treasury (Lord Frederick Cavendish) to Department,  
8th February.

Transmits copy of letter from Office of Works of 1st February, dealing (1) with question of Museum Buildings and Department accommodation, (2) with question of General Scott and Staff. First Commissioner cannot agree with views expressed in Mr. Mundella's letter of 11th January. Occupation of Western Galleries was never sanctioned, and has been continued contrary to Treasury instructions. As to arrangement with General Scott, it may with great advantage to the Government be determined without any injustice to himself. With reference to notice given to General Scott and Staff that their services will cease on 31st March 1882, Treasury approve step thus taken by Office of Works, but observe that this does not in any way prejudice question of future additions to Department buildings, or their date.

Mr. Mundella to Treasury,  
20th April.

Presses for decision as to future buildings, and more especially for completion of South East Wing. The additional space which will be afforded by the new courts, the corridor, and the rooms now occupied by Art Library will be wholly insufficient to contain the unexhibited objects in possession of Department, and those shortly expected. Space is also urgently needed for the increasing requirements of Circulation. With regard to appropriation of Exhibition Buildings, it is proposed that the National Portraits should be transferred to Western Galleries, and Southern Galleries be occupied by Department. As to necessity for removal and future of Patent Collections. With regard to General Scott, My Lords cannot agree with Mr. Shaw Lefevre's calculations, and must press for arbitration in this case. My Lords then proceed to deal with the question of the relations between the Department and the Office of Works. They would wish to return fully to system in force up to 1870, when Department had entire charge of its own works and buildings; but without pressing this point, they feel they have a strong claim to alteration of existing arrangement, and to extension of action and responsibility of Their Department. Memorandum by General Scott enclosed.

Col. Donnelly to Treasury,  
26th April.

Transmits printed copies of Vice-President's letter of 20th April, for convenience of reference, and explains as to locality of concrete floors mentioned in par. 3, p. 2.



1882.  
Treasury (Mr. Leonard  
Courtney) to Department,  
30th June.

Encloses copy of a Report, dated 12th June, by the First Commissioner of Works, making certain recommendations as to questions of accommodation, extension of building, etc., and other points raised in Department's letters of 20th and 26th April. In dealing with this Report the Treasury observe that they are not unwilling to provide a small sum in 1883-4 for commencing South East Wing; but before committing themselves to any particular plan or sum, they think General Scott's design, as well as any modifications proposed by Office of Works, should be exhibited, for criticism, in House of Commons Library. As to reasons urged for proceeding with this wing, Treasury are of opinion that a system under which 380,000 works are sent up annually for payment and for National Competition, requires serious reconsideration. National Portrait Gallery should not be moved. Negotiations have been authorized for renewal of lease of Southern Galleries. Control of repairs must remain with Office of Works. Useless to continue controversy about General Scott. Commissioners of Patents will be consulted about Patent Museum.

Mr. Mundella to Treasury,  
14th August.

Replying to Treasury letter of 30th June, and its enclosure of 12th June from Office of Works, My Lords are glad to hear Treasury are prepared to go on with the South East Wing. Hope it will be finished before end of 1884-5. The £15,000 suggested by Office of Works would hardly carry the buildings beyond the foundation. Mr. Lefevre's strictures on General Scott are unfounded. The proposed submission of design to Parliament would entail much useless criticism, and probable delay. Mr. Lefevre was apparently not aware of the circumstances connected with the preparation of the existing plans and elevation, and of the approval and sanction which had already been given on the subject. Brief statement of these contained in memorandum herewith. It is hoped Treasury will see injustice of taking the completion of a building out of the hands of the architect who had admittedly built a large portion of it most successfully. As to present system of sending Art Works to London, it is unquestionably the best both on the score of economy and efficiency. With regard to removal of National Portraits, hope Treasury will not decide finally without seeing the buildings at South Kensington. Retention of Western Galleries is necessary.

Col. Donnelly to Treasury,  
6th November.

With reference to Patent Museum question, appends copy of motion by Mr. Hinde Palmer, M.P. Extension of South Kensington Museum building must be on site now occupied by Patent Museum. If latter collections are to be merged into a Museum of Mechanical Science, like the Paris Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers, they might be housed, temporarily, in Southern Galleries. Apart from this, the reorganization and development of the Science Collections should no longer be delayed. There is also the question of the transfer of National Portraits to Western Galleries.

Treasury (Mr. Leonard  
Courtney) to Department,  
16th November.

Colonel Donnelly's letter of 6th November will be communicated to Commissioners of Patents. Treasury agree that before South East Wing can be begun, Patent Museum must be removed, but do not expect work will begin early next year. Before any expenditure can take place, Parliament must vote the money and approve of the plans. National Portraits had better remain where they are for the present.

Col. Donnelly to Treasury,  
28th November.

In reply, urges transfer of National Portraits to Western Galleries. Staff of this Department could remove and re-hang the Portraits in a fortnight.



1882.

Treasury (Mr. Leonard Courtney) to Department,  
16th December.

Forwards copy of letter from Office of Works, dated 28th November, with its enclosure (memorandum by Mr. Taylor) with reference to Vice President's letter of 14th August last, on the subject of further buildings at South Kensington, and removal of Patent Museum. Also a letter from Patent Commissioners stating that this removal cannot take place without previous legislative sanction. Thus, before the South East Wing can be begun (1) an act must be obtained authorizing transfer and amalgamation; (2) contents must be removed from present quarters; (3) plans for new buildings must be approved by Parliament and by Treasury; (4) money must be voted by Parliament. Hence, Treasury would not sanction more than £5000 for new wing in 1883-4. Unnecessary at this stage to decide whether General Scott or another should be employed. There is no question between General Scott and Government for arbitration. Transfer of National Portrait Gallery has been decided against in a separate letter. Their letter of 30th June shows the importance Treasury attach to a judicious weeding of the different collections at South Kensington.

Treasury (Mr. Leonard Courtney) to Department,  
16th December.

Encloses copy of correspondence between Treasury, Office of Works, and Commissioners for 1851 Exhibition as to terms for renewing lease of Southern Galleries. Treasury are not disposed to authorize any claim for rent for Western Galleries being met from any vote of Parliament, and ask whether officers of Science and Art Department responsible for unauthorized occupation of the Galleries are prepared to pay for them.

1883.

Treasury (Mr. Leonard Courtney) to Department,  
8th February.

For synopsis of articles in Southern Galleries, and statement of space occupied. Also similar synopsis of articles in Western Galleries.

Mr. Mundella to Treasury,  
28th February.

Forwards information asked for in Treasury letter of 8th February. Also a memorandum by Colonel Donnelly, and a Minute on the whole subject by Lord Spencer, who had then gone to Ireland, strongly insisting on the necessity for a Science Museum. In referring to the present Science Collections, His Lordship observes "They are not complete but they form the nucleus of a collection which a Royal Commission and other authorities on Scientific Education declare to be of great educational utility. To my mind it would be a fatal mistake to break up this Collection." And Mr. Mundella comments on the position of the Government if, while a Royal Commission appointed by them is travelling over Europe to report on the question of technical instruction, they break up the nucleus of, instead of forming, a collection which competent authorities have stated to be at the very foundation of scientific education and progress.

Treasury (Mr. Leonard Courtney) to Department,  
20th March.

For report on accommodation required, and best means of providing it.

Col. Donnelly to Treasury,  
12th May.

Reports as requested in Treasury letter of 20th March. Oriental Section should occupy South Western extension of South Kensington Museum. As already explained (Vice President's letter of 20th April 1882), a large addition to buildings is required for offices, examination rooms, etc. This could be provided in South East wing. Under circumstances explained, Western Galleries could not be vacated at present. Completion of Museum, and commencement of new galleries to west of Exhibition Road, are urgent. Space for Fish Collection may be dealt with later.

Treasury (Mr. Leonard Courtney) to Department,  
18th June.

Transmits copy of their (the Treasury) Minute, dated 13th June 1883, touching upon the various questions dealt with in this correspondence, and recommending appointment of a representative Committee to report (1)



1883.

upon the Scientific and Technical collections at South Kensington, including the Patent Museum, and the space required for them, and (2) to suggest plans for housing these collections in present Southern Galleries, or in new galleries to be built upon their site, and the adjacent ground now owned by Government. Thus the Scientific and Technical Collection, including the Patent Museum, would be concentrated to the West of Exhibition Road and the India Museum would be merged into the other Art Collections to the East of that road. Lords of Committee are requested to nominate a representative.

Treasury (Mr. Leonard Courtney) to Department, 13th July.

With reference to their letter of 18th ult., enclose copies of Office of Works' letter of 4th July, and enclosure, as to future tenancy of Western and Southern Galleries, and of Treasury reply approving of arrangements being made with 1851 Commissioners for renting said Galleries for £2000 and £1500 a year respectively.

Mr. Mundella to Treasury, 26th July.

My Lords nominate Sir Francis Sandford, K.C.B., as their representative on Committee referred to in Treasury letter of 18th June.

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1884.

Treasury (Mr. Leonard Courtney) to Department, 4th January (Extract).

Cannot sanction increase for purchases for Science Collections until the future of these Collections, and of the Patent Museum, is more definitely settled.

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Col. Donnelly to Treasury, 19th January (Extract).

Committee referred to in Treasury letter of 4th January was, My Lords understood, to deal with the housing, and not with the nature and extent, of the Collections. Such is the urgency of placing these collections on a proper footing, that My Lords have appointed a Committee (names) to advise them *in re*. In 1864 a Committee of the House of Commons made recommendations with regard to placing the Patent Museum on a proper footing. These recommendations were reviewed and reiterated by the Royal Commission on Scientific Instruction in 1874, on the ground that "such a Museum would have a material influence upon the spread of scientific Instruction throughout the country, and would, therefore, largely foster Invention and Discovery." The Royal Commission also draw special attention to the opinion of the House of Commons Committee on claim of such a Museum on Inventors' fees, amounting in 1871, to £923,741. Nothing has yet been done. My Lords hope Treasury will sanction small increase (£900) to Subhead for Science Collections.

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Treasury (Mr. Leonard Courtney) to Department, 24th January (Extract).

As to respective functions of the Inter-Departmental Committee appointed by Treasury, and the Committee nominated by the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education.

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Mr. Mundella to Treasury, 27th May.

Requests that Colonel Donnelly, R.E., be added to Committee on Scientific and Technical Collections.

Treasury (Sir Ralph Lingens) to Department, 7th June.

Colonel Donnelly's name has been substituted for that of Sir Francis Sandford on Committee.

Mr. Mundella to Treasury, 14th June.

The Department's letter of 27th May has been misunderstood. It was not intended that Colonel Donnelly should be substituted for Sir Francis Sandford, but that both should act on Committee.



1884.

Lord Carlingford to Treasury,  
28th November.

States Lords of the Committee of Council on Education find it absolutely necessary again to press on the attention of the Treasury the question of the extension of the buildings for the Offices of the Department and the Museum by the completion of the South-East Wing of the South Kensington Museum Buildings. This question is quite distinct from the housing of the Scientific and Technical Collections, including Patent Museum. From Treasury Minute of 13th June 1883, it is evident that provision is contemplated for Patent Collections on the West of Exhibition Road, and meanwhile My Lords have directed that such of the contents of the old Patent Museum as the Department Committee may propose to retain shall be amalgamated with Department Collection in Southern and Western Galleries. Hence extension of South Kensington Museum building proper may be considered quite independently of any report of above Committee, with which indeed it has no connection.

My Lords point to their repeated applications to show that the continued delay in exhibiting the drawings in Library of House of Commons, or taking any other necessary preliminary step, does not rest with them. As far back as 30th June 1882 the Treasury, in reply to Department's letter of 20th April, stated their willingness to provide a small sum in Estimates for 1883-4 for beginning South East Wing, and First Commissioner in his letter to Treasury of 12th June 1882, suggested that a moderate sum, say £15,000, should be voted for this purpose, and that the remainder should be spread over the two following years. Eventually only £5000 was taken, but when this vote came before the House of Commons, First Commissioner stated that being unable to supply further details asked for, and having regard to views expressed by Honourable Members, he should "withdraw the item for the new wing, now, and bring it forward later in the Session when he might be in a position to state what the cost would be." But the item was not brought forward again. The crowded state of the Offices indicates the necessity, which indeed is admitted, for extension, and money grants to the extent of £70,000 depend on the accuracy of the work done under such conditions. In conclusion My Lords observe that, unless proper accommodation is provided, they cannot be responsible for the proper administration of the Department. In the face of such a state of things it would be trifling with Parliament and the Country to talk of considering the important questions raised by the Royal Commission on Technical Instruction.

1885.

Treasury (Mr. J. T. Hibbert)  
to Department,  
23rd January.

With reference to (1) the extension of the South East Wing, and (2) alleged need of Staff accommodation, Treasury do not consider point (1) to be yet ripe for decision. Plans should be submitted for public inspection, and more reliable data obtained as to cost. With regard to point (2), Department Officers had better communicate with those of Board of Works, as to any requisite minor and temporary alterations.

Treasury (Mr. C. G. Barrington) to Department,  
5th February.

Forwards a copy of their letter of same date to the Office of Works, stating, in reply to a letter or report from that Office of the 26th January, that nothing more need be done either as to (a) extending South East Wing, or (b) providing Examination Halls, till Departmental Committee on Science Collections had reported. (N.B. The Department informed the Treasury that they were mistaken in distinguishing between (a) and (b), as the extension question covered both.)

Lord Carlingford to Treasury,  
9th February.

Expresses surprise at the tenour of Treasury letter of 5th February, so different from theirs of 23rd January, and calls for Office of Works' report of 26th January,



1885.

and plans referred to which have been prepared by the Office of Works without consultation with his Lordship or the Vice-President.

Treasury (Sir Ralph Lingens)  
to Department,  
23rd February.

Although under no obligation to do so, Treasury do not object to supply copy of Office of Works report of 26th January. Fail to see any inconsistency between Treasury letters of 23rd January and 5th February. (In this Report, First Commissioner considers space question to be really less urgent than in 1882. He contests the necessity of asking for a Vote on account of South East Wing until plans for completion of Museum can be laid before Parliament. Any building now begun would practically commit country to an expenditure of from £350,000 to £500,000. Thinks General Scott's design is most unsatisfactory. Sketch designs have been prepared in Office of Works, but not yet submitted to Science and Art Department. On the whole, it would be better to wait till Committee on Technical Collections has reported.)

Mr. Mundella to Treasury,  
26th March.

Recapitulates facts, and transmits correspondence with Office of Works, in which latter, replying to our repeated applications for sketch designs referred to in their Report of 26th January, state that the Department may see the designs at Whitehall, but refuse to send them to South Kensington on the score that they are too rudimentary to be considered authoritative or fit for presentation to a Government Department. In this letter Department at the same time urged that General Scott's design—suitably modified—should be at once carried out, and a supplementary Vote taken to begin South East Wing before end of Session.

Treasury (Sir Ralph Lingens)  
to Department, 15th April.

Will communicate with Office of Works on subjects of Department's two letters of 26th March, viz.: (1)\* future accommodation of Jermyn Street establishment, and (2) adoption of General Scott's plans, suitably modified, for South East Wing.

Treasury (Sir Ralph Lingens)  
to Department, 12th May.

Having communicated with Office of Works on (1)\* future accommodation of Jermyn Street establishment and (2) completion of South East Wing, Treasury "concur with Lord Rosebery that it is desirable to defer dealing with both subjects until they can be considered in connection with the forthcoming Report of the Committee on the Scientific and Technical Collections at South Kensington."

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\*This refers to a proposal of the Department (Mr. Mundella's letter of 26th March 1885) asking that, in the event of the transfer of the Jermyn Street establishment to South Kensington, the Committee for housing Technical Collections might consider whether space might not be found for the Staff and Collections thus to be removed.

Col. Donnelly to Treasury,  
18th May.

Points out that question of possibility of finding accommodation on site of Southern Galleries should be considered by Committee before making their report and that their opinion on this point is a necessary preliminary to the consideration of the further question whether the Institution at Jermyn Street should be moved.



1885.  
Sir Henry Holland  
to Treasury,  
24th December.

Encloses printed précis of correspondence. As long ago as 1882 the Treasury were willing to provide a sum for commencing the South-East wing and suggested that General Scott's design and any proposed modifications should be exhibited in the Library of the House of Commons. A sum of £5000 was placed in Office of Works' Estimate for 1883-84. This sum was withdrawn when the Estimates were under discussion in Parliament because total anticipated cost of South-East wing could not be given, and it was not subsequently brought forward.

It was shown in Lord Carlingford's letter of 28th November 1884 that the building of this wing might be considered independently of Report of Committee on Science Collections. This Committee has, however, now reported.

A printed memorandum by the Secretary of the Science and Art Department on the present position of the question of New Buildings at South Kensington is enclosed.

It was understood from the First Commissioner of Works at his visit to South Kensington on 21st instant, that he would have plans and estimate prepared forthwith.

It is hoped that a vote on account may be taken during the current session. Employment of an architect is probably unnecessary as plans are in a forward state and the style of the Façade is fixed by that of the existing buildings.

1886.  
Col. Donnelly to Treasury,  
21st April.

Requests reply to Sir Henry Holland's letter of 24th December last. The need for increased office accommodation is very pressing.

Mr. H. Fowler, Treasury,  
to the Vice-President,  
5th May.

In view of large and increasing demands upon the Exchequer and the extensive building requirements for a new Admiralty and War Office, My Lords regret that they are unable to sanction the expenditure urged upon them by the Committee of Council.

Sir Lyon Playfair to Secretary  
of the Treasury,  
22nd July.

My Lords trust that the Treasury decision refers only to proposal made by their predecessors in office for a supplementary vote during the past session of Parliament, as the work of the Department cannot properly be carried on unless early steps are taken to provide increased accommodation for examination and other administrative purposes, and this the South-East wing was intended to furnish.

As it would be quite four years before the building would be ready for occupation, it is requested that at the close of the Indian and Colonial Exhibition, the rooms in the Western Gallery which have been lent to Canadian Commission may be allocated permanently to the Science and Art Department.

Mr. Jackson, Treasury, to  
Vice-President of Committee  
of Council,  
3rd September.

Circumstances of case are not altered since the Treasury reply of 5th of May last, and decision then announced must be adhered to.

Treasury cannot consent to permanent allocation of space on Western side of the Exhibition Road, but question may be again raised when the buildings are vacant.

Sir H. T. Holland  
to Secretary of the Treasury,  
18th September.

With reference to Treasury Letter of 3rd instant declining to alter previous decision as to proposed new buildings, encloses copy of Minute (31st July 1886) signed by Earl Spencer and Sir Lyon Playfair on leaving office, recording their opinion of the immediate need for increased accommodation. States that it will be absolutely necessary to occupy rooms in West Galleries when they are vacated by Canadian Commissioners, but in accordance with wishes of the Treasury this point will not be pressed until the buildings become vacant.



1887.

Treasury (Mr. Jackson) to  
Vice-President, Education  
Office, 19th February.

Referring to Sir Henry Holland's letter of 18th September last, encloses copy of Report of First Commissioner of Works on the requirements of the Department of Science and Art, and the method of meeting them. Their Lordships of the Treasury concur generally in proposals made therein, which may be summed up as follows:—To remove the Naval Models, etc., to Greenwich, and to utilize the space in the Southern Galleries thus set free partly as accommodation for the examination work of the Department, and partly for the exhibition of the Persian Collection now housed in an annexe to the North of the South Kensington Museum, and to fit up this annexe for the circulation collection. Lastly, to appropriate two of the official residences for office purposes. Treasury would be glad to have the views of the Committee of Council on these suggestions. Question of ultimate designs for completing South Kensington Museum can stand over. Personal allowance would be made to officers dispossessed of their residences.

Sir W. Hart Dyke to the  
Treasury, 15th April.

My Lords regret determination of Treasury, as conveyed in Mr. Jackson's letter of 19th February last, to postpone preparation of designs for completing South Kensington Museum, and carry out only proposals of First Commissioner (if accepted) for meeting immediate requirements by a temporary makeshift.

The necessity for completing the South East Wing—a necessity admitted by Treasury in 1882—has been so fully and urgently represented, that no more need be said on that head. Each year the work of the Department becomes more difficult owing to the postponement of providing proper accommodation.

With regard to the temporary expedients proposed, My Lords find them to be wholly impracticable. It would be most undesirable to transfer the Naval Models to Greenwich. The Collection at Greenwich is entirely illustrative of *Ships of War*: that at South Kensington is for the illustration of Naval Architecture generally. It consists (with the exception of some Models of War Ships which the owners refused to send to Greenwich when the Admiralty Models were removed there from South Kensington) of models of merchant vessels, models of marine engines, screws, etc., and of a valuable collection of models of ship construction, specially made for the Department at the recommendation of Lord Ravensworth's Committee. My Lords append a letter from Sir E. J. Reed, K.C.B., etc., a member of that Committee, whose position as a naval architect renders his opinion of peculiar value. This letter appears to My Lords to be a sufficient answer to Mr. Mitford's separate report as a member of Sir F. Bramwell's Committee. Judging from what happened before it is doubtful whether many, if any, of those private builders who have sent models to South Kensington would transfer them to Greenwich.

The scheme to locate the Persian Collection in one of the rooms thus proposed to be vacated cannot be entertained, either on the score of space or of safety as regards fire. With regard to the proposal to use the other room, now occupied by Naval Models, as an Examination Room, My Lords point out that it was so used until, at the recommendation of the Inter-Departmental Committee, it was exchanged for the rooms in the Western Gallery which are now employed for that purpose from time to time, and for the permanent allocation of which the Department has repeatedly pressed.

With respect to the conversion of two of the official residences into offices, the residences would be very inconvenient for such a purpose: but anyhow the arrangement would not, having regard to expenditure for conversion and compensation, be an economical one. Apart from this consideration, the necessity for official residences has been recognized by the British Museum, and almost all



Museums at home and abroad. This is especially the case with the buildings at South Kensington, which are often open till late at night. My Lords cannot be responsible for the Museum with its millions' worth of property and its thousands of visitors, and for large schools with hundreds of students, unless one superior officer at least can be always on the premises, not only in case of fire, but to direct the Police and Attendants if any difficulty should arise. Their Lordships regret therefore that they cannot adopt the First Commissioner's suggestions, and they must again urge the taking in hand as soon as possible of the plans for the South-East Wing, which is an entirely distinct question from buildings on the West of Exhibition Road.

In conclusion My Lords trust that the Examination Rooms in the Western Galleries may no longer be withheld.

1887.  
Lord Cranbrook to the  
Chancellor of the Exchequer,  
6th July.

The Lord President (Lord Cranbrook) states that, on the 30th June 1887, he received an influential Deputation from the Institution of Naval Architects to protest in the strongest way against the removal of the collections of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from South Kensington to Greenwich or elsewhere (as proposed by Mr. Mitford) and to urge on Government the necessity for extending the buildings containing them, as proposed by the other members of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Science Collections in their Report. A copy of the memorandum from which Lord Ravensworth (the President of the Institution) spoke, and which embodies the views of the Deputation, is enclosed.

The Lord President trusts that the matter will receive the serious consideration of the Treasury, and, pending a decision on the general question, refers to Sir W. Hart Dyke's letter of 15th April last and again urges handing over to Department of rooms in West Galleries to face present space difficulties.

Sir William Hart Dyke to  
the Treasury, 28th Nov.

In transmitting copy of Report of Committee on Machinery and Inventions Collections, My Lords entirely concur with the Committee in their opinion that 39,000 square feet of space are required besides that already devoted to this Division. With reference to the receipts from Patentees—over 2½ millions sterling—in excess of the expenses of the Patent Office, My Lords agree with House of Commons Committee of 1864 on Patent Office Library and Museum in thinking "that the principal object of the fees payable under the provisions of the Patent Law Amendment Act was to provide for the proper working of that measure, and not for the purpose of increasing the general revenue of the country. Without entering upon the question whether or not a claim exists to have the surplus exclusively devoted to the purposes of the Act of 1852, your Committee are of opinion that for the future the annual surplus revenue accruing from the operation of that Act should be so applied to the extent which may be necessary." Their Lordships therefore urge proceeding at once with buildings recommended by Inter-Departmental Committee presided over by Sir Frederick Bramwell; and, with a view to meet pending requirements, attention is called to the Lord President's letter of 6th July last to the Lord Chancellor, asking that rooms in Western Galleries may be handed over to Department.



1888.  
Gen. Donnelly to Lord R. Churchill, 10th May. Forwards, with observations, copy of printed memorandum on the cost of carrying out works recommended by Inter-Departmental Committee on Science Collections.
- Gen. Donnelly to Treasury, 23rd June. Adverting to Sir W. Hart Dyke's letter of 15th April 1887, asks whether it has been decided to assign Examination Rooms in Western Galleries to exclusive use of Science and Art Department.
1889.  
Treasury (Mr. Mowatt) to Science and Art Department, 18th February. Having carefully considered the question of a permanent surrender to Science and Art Department of certain rooms in Western Galleries, My Lords are unwilling to entertain any further proposals for increasing existing accommodation until proposed Committee on South Kensington Collections has sent in its final report. Meanwhile the rooms will be still available for examination purposes.
- Gen. Donnelly to Office of Works, 20th February. Asks that the open space of staircase on top floor may be covered over, to provide for accommodation of a larger staff of Copyists.
- Gen. Donnelly, 24th July. Memorandum as to nothing having been done towards extension of buildings; draws attention to the defective accommodation for examination work and circulation, the overcrowding in the offices, dilapidated condition of old iron buildings, etc., and the steadily increasing work of Department.
- Viscount Cranbrook to Chancellor of Exchequer, 13th August. Forwards above Memorandum and draws attention to numerous letters from predecessors in office as to completion of South East Wing. States that the Patent Museum having now been removed, the old Iron Building in which it was housed can be cleared away. Trusts that immediate steps may be taken to provide for additional accommodation, the need for which is now so unquestioned and urgent, otherwise the work of Department, for which he is responsible, cannot be properly conducted.
1890.  
Gen. Donnelly to Treasury, 3rd February. Draws attention to Lord President's letter of 13th August last to Chancellor of Exchequer, and points out that the question of office accommodation is quite independent of any question of increased Museum space. Suggests that some neighbouring house should be taken to accommodate part of staff.
- Gen. Donnelly to Treasury, 26th March. Refers to Lord President's letter of 13th August last, and states that, though the application of 3rd February 1890 has been withdrawn for this year, it will be impossible to carry on increasing work of Department another year without some extension of accommodation.
- Mr. W. L. Jackson to Science and Art Department, 19th July. My Lords have been informed that a Conference has been arranged to take place between the Lord President and the First Commissioner of Works as to the requirements of the Science and Art Department and the completion of the South East Wing, the result of which shall receive immediate consideration.
- Mr. Plunket to Viscount Cranbrook, 23rd July. Asks for views of Science and Art Department as to requirements on Eastern side of Exhibition Road, with a view to preparation of plans.
- Gen. Donnelly to Office of Works, 6th Aug. In accordance with above wish, forwards printed Memorandum, setting forth the views of the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education.
- Gen. Donnelly to Treasury, 9th December. Must again press for provision of additional office accommodation, the request for which, on 3rd February 1890, was withdrawn for a year in accordance with arrangements by which the Examination Rooms in Western Galleries were to be left for use of Department. Shows how the removal of the old Iron Buildings to



make room for New Buildings will place Department in great straits; how the space in Western Galleries is being curtailed, and how the work of Department is rapidly increasing. Suggests the erection of a Temporary Iron Building.

1890.

Mr. Primrose to  
General Donnelly,  
21st December.

States that the conditions of the competition for the South Kensington Buildings were being prepared, and that a point had been reached at which a conference with General Donnelly and General Festing became necessary.

1891.

General Donnelly  
to Office of Works, 31st Jan.

States what Temporary Office accommodation will be required.

Mr. J. Taylor to  
Gen. Donnelly, 20th Feb.

Encloses plans of proposed Temporary Buildings.

Gen. Donnelly to  
Mr. J. Taylor, 23rd February.  
Treasury to Science and Art  
Department, 14th March.

Returns plans with alterations and remarks.

Office of Works have been authorised to take immediate steps for providing two Temporary Iron Buildings.

Gen. Donnelly to  
Mr. Primrose, 17th March.

Memorandum as to Site for Temporary Buildings.

Gen. Donnelly to  
Office of Works, 14th Oct.

Points out that the roofs and all above the first floor of the Picture Galleries which were constructed to take the Vernon and Turner Pictures, are of a temporary nature, and requests that the roof of the Raphael Gallery should be made unflammable. Suggests that the work should be provided for in estimating for the new buildings.

Mr. Primrose to  
Gen. Donnelly, 23rd Oct.

Requests reply to questions as to the stages by which New Buildings can be proceeded with.

Gen. Donnelly to  
Mr. Primrose, 24th Oct.

Explains necessity for retention of old Iron Buildings and New Temporary Offices until new space is provided; and suggests that the whole new front should be commenced at once with a depth of about 80 feet. This, when completed, would provide office room and space for Persian Collections.

Gen. Donnelly to Office of  
Works, 3rd November.

Has sent, as desired, drawings of New Buildings to Mr. Aston Webb. Submits recommendations with regard to the agreed modification of North end of Great Entrance Hall, which will make it necessary to re-model the whole block between the Science Library and the Antique Cast Court.

Mr. Aston Webb to  
Gen. Donnelly, 26th Nov.

Sends sketch plans of Ground and First Floors of completed Buildings, showing arrangements finally agreed upon.

Gen. Donnelly to Office of  
Works, 2nd December.

Submits Report by Officers of Department, upon tracings furnished by Mr. Aston Webb, suggesting certain alterations as to office accommodation, and requests that the Report may be communicated to Mr. Webb.

1892.

Mr. Primrose to Science and  
Art Department, 2nd March.

Transmits five sketch plans of the Administrative Block, submitted by Mr. Webb.

Gen. Donnelly to Office of  
Works, 19th March.

Returns plans, with observations, and suggests that a Model be made of proposed Buildings.

Major-General Festing,  
30th May.

Memorandum giving particulars of the temporary buildings which the clearing of the site for the proposed new buildings will render necessary.

Gen. Donnelly to Office of  
Works, 5th July.

Transmits plans of two Temporary Buildings which will be required before clearing the site for extension of Museum, one to contain Circulation Collections, and the other for Examination of Works from Schools of Art. Suggests establishment *now* of an entrance at the place where it will be when extension is completed, viz.:—more to the South and close to the branch of the Subway to South Kensington Station, which might then be made available for Visitors.



1892.  
Mr. Aston Webb to  
General Donnelly,  
14th October.
- Forwards framed lithograph of exterior, : Proposes to put Refreshment Rooms (for Offices) on 3rd or additional floor.
- Gen. Donnelly to  
Mr. Aston Webb, 18th Oct.
- Agrees, but suggests placing the Kitchen on the same floor or on the one above it, at the extreme East end. Enquires as to Model of proposed Buildings.
- Mr. Aston Webb to  
Gen. Donnelly, 22nd Oct.
- Would like to see a Model when the details of the façade are complete. The Kitchens on 3rd floor will be a great improvement,
- Office of Works  
(Mr. H. W. Primrose) to  
Science and Art Department,  
14th December.
- Forwards copy of letter to Treasury, showing sums taken in estimates on account of New Buildings, South Kensington.
- S. & A. Dept. (Mr. Trendell)  
to Office of Works,  
24th December.
- Points out that the "Iron Building" in which the Examination of Students' Works is carried on cannot be cleared away till October, unless the Temporary Building to supply its place is ready for use by 1st March next.
- Office of Works  
(Mr. H. W. Primrose) to  
Science and Art Department,  
27th December.
- Sends copy of Treasury letter declining to sanction any provision in estimates for New Buildings, South Kensington. The ~~£25,000~~ for Temporary Buildings is also cancelled. 2500
1893.  
Sir John Donnelly to  
Office of Works, 18th Sept.
- Draws attention to the risks from fire to which the buildings of the South Kensington Museum are exposed and requests the immediate removal of the "Boilers" and other temporary structures in close proximity to the Museum.
- Office of Works to  
Department, 11th October.
- The First Commissioner is of opinion that the necessary expenditure for the removal of the temporary buildings should be made conditional on the action to be taken in respect to the proposed new permanent buildings. If they are to be proceeded with it would seem justifiable to continue to run the risks of fire for the few more years that would elapse before some substantial addition would be made to them; but should the scheme for completing the Museum be indefinitely postponed, or abandoned altogether, then there would be much less justification for retaining the buildings in their present unsafe state. The whole question will, however, be considered in connection with the Estimates for 1894-5.
- Sir John Donnelly to  
Office of Works, 25th Oct.
- Points out that the temporary building to be erected in the Imperial Institute Road, to replace the boilers, should be ready by the end of February, otherwise the latter building will have to be retained for another year.
1894.  
Memorandum by  
Sir John Donnelly,  
12th March.
- By letter of 12th February 1892 (Sir J. Gorst's), the late Government authorized the Office of Works "to proceed on the assumption that the erection of the whole of the proposed buildings"—to complete the buildings at South Kensington on Mr. Aston Webb's design—"should be proceeded with simultaneously."
- By letter of 16th February 1894, from the Office of Works, enclosing letter from the First Commissioner to the Treasury of 4th January 1894, the Department is informed that Mr. Shaw Lefevre adheres to the opinion expressed by him last year that "it will not be necessary for some years to come to do more than erect the South Eastern Wing of these buildings." Further, it appears that possibly—though this is doubtful—money may be taken to commence this wing in 1895-6, with a view to complete it in 4 years, *i.e.*, in 1898-99.



1894.  
Memorandum by  
Sir John Donnelly  
(continued),  
12th March.

By direction of the Treasury, who had been convinced of the necessity for it after a correspondence extending over several years, a sum of £5,000 was taken in the Estimates for 1883-4 "on account of erection of South East Wing (total cost not yet ascertained)." When the vote for the Office of Works came on in the House of Commons Mr. Shaw Lefevre withdrew this item of £5,000, stating that he would bring it forward again later in the Session.

As matters stand a work acknowledged to be necessary in 1883 *may* be provided for in 1895. But the commencement of the rest of the buildings for which the Treasury authorised the provision in 1892 is deferred till 1899—to be completed, say, in 1904 or 5.

Sir John Donnelly to  
Office of Works,  
25th April.

Calls attention to the serious want of office accommodation and requests that steps be taken for hiring a house in the Cromwell Road until the new offices are built.

Office of Works  
(Mr. J. Taylor) to  
Major-General Festing,  
26th April.

Sends plans of temporary buildings proposed to be erected on the Imperial Institute Road Site, and suggests that their height might be lessened from 16 feet to 14 feet, and that the windows might be reduced both in number and size.

Sir John Donnelly to  
Office of Works, 7th July.

States that the building of which Mr. Taylor sent plans on the 26th April will be sufficient to accommodate the work, but that a shed of about 2750 superficial feet should be provided for the storage of packing cases.

Sir John Donnelly to  
Office of Works, 21st July.

Enquires when Department may expect to be furnished with the increased office accommodation asked for on the 25th April last.

Major-General Festing,  
25th July.

Reports that the Secretary of the Office of Works called and asked whether the use of the old Circulation buildings might be suggested in lieu of the proposal of hiring a house in the Cromwell Road for the purpose required.

Sir John Donnelly to  
Office of Works, 28th July.

States that in consideration of the urgency of the matter and the delay that has already taken place My Lords have no option but to agree to Mr. Primrose's proposal of the 25th instant respecting the old Circulation buildings.

Sir John Donnelly to  
Office of Works, 13th Nov.

Calls attention to the urgency of the Requisition of the 19th October for work to be done in connection with the removal of the Circulation collections to the Museum which must take place before the old buildings can be fitted up as offices.

Office of Works  
(Mr. H. W. Primrose) to  
Department, 20th Nov.

States that directions have been given for the execution of the necessary works in the Galleries of the Museum to which the Circulation Division is to be removed.

1895.  
Sir John Donnelly to  
Office of Works, 25th Jan.

Calls attention to the necessity for the erection of a shed for the storage of packing cases near the new iron building now being proceeded with on the Imperial Institute Road site.

Office of Works  
(Mr. H. W. Primrose) to  
Department, 29th Jan.

Transmits copy of a letter from the Lords of the Treasury, dated 24th January, expressing their regret that they are unable to provide in the Estimates for 1895-6 for commencing the erection of the proposed new buildings at the South Kensington Museum.



1895.  
Office of Works  
to Department, 15th Feb.

Explains inability to proceed with the erection of the shed for the accommodation of packing cases and suggests that the old entrance to the Horticultural Gardens be made available for the purpose.

Sir John Donnelly  
to Treasury,  
21st February.

Forwards copy of Office of Works letter of the 15th instant and requests sanction to the erection by contract of an iron shed at a cost of about £85 in lieu of the proposal to utilize the old entrance to the Horticultural Gardens with its attendant expenses of cartage and labour.

Sir John Donnelly to  
Office of Works, 27th Feb.

Requests that the roof of the old entrance to the Horticultural Gardens be repaired and the gutters put in order.

Treasury (Mr. G. L. Ryder)  
to Department,  
28th February.

Sanctions proposal for erection of a shed for the storage of packing cases, but states that the contract should be made by the Office of Works.

Sir John Donnelly to  
Office of Works, 1st March.

Sends copy of correspondence with Treasury together with copy of Contractors' estimate for the erection of the shed for packing cases, and requests that the work may be proceeded with *at once*.

Office of Works  
to Department, 13th March.

States that directions have been given for the provision of a shed for the storing of packing cases.

Major-General Festing,  
21st September.

Memorandum pointing out that accommodation for certain Stores work, formerly performed in the Quadrangle iron building, but this year in the "Boilers," will have to be provided elsewhere if the removal of the latter is insisted on by Office of Works.

[Mr. Saltmarsh, in a Memorandum dated 27th September 1895, states that 8946 square feet of floor space will be required for the purpose].

Office of Works  
to Department, 2nd Oct.

Enquires when the "Boilers" will be vacated, as it is desirable to demolish the structure without delay.

Sir John Donnelly,  
6th October.

Memorandum. Considers that no obstacle should be placed in the way of the removal of the "Boilers" after all that has been represented as to danger from fire, but that Department might take the opportunity of (1) applying for additional temporary accommodation on West of Exhibition Road, and (2) pressing for commencement of new permanent buildings.

Major-General Festing,  
8th October.

Memorandum pointing out that (1) a new building covering same area as the "Boilers" will be required, (2) the temporary building in the Imperial Institute Road does not afford the accommodation originally asked for, its size being reduced at the request of the Office of Works, (3) since the time of Department's original demand for that building the work at present carried on in the "Boilers" has enormously increased, (4) it will be dangerous to again use the Quadrangle iron building for this work, (5) the further new building should be erected on the site of the old entrance to the Horticultural Gardens.

Sir John Donnelly to  
Office of Works, 22nd Oct.

States that the "Boilers" may be removed at once if the floor space of the temporary building on the West of Exhibition Road can be increased by 4,000 sq. feet by 1st March 1896.



1895.  
Department to  
Office of Works, 22nd Oct.

States that the "Boilers" may be removed at once if the floor space of the temporary building on the West of Exhibition Road can be increased by 4,000 sq. feet by 1st March 1896.

Office of Works  
to Department, 31st Oct.

States that it was understood that the "Boilers" could be demolished on completion of temporary buildings referred to, and asks whether some arrangement, not involving a further expenditure of public funds cannot be made, so as to enable the "Boilers" to be removed at an early date.

Department to  
Office of Works, 5th Nov.

Points out that the temporary iron building in Imperial Institute Road was not made of dimensions originally asked for; and that until additional space is provided it is absolutely necessary to continue to occupy the "Boilers."

1896.  
Sir John Donnelly,  
6th March.

Memorandum to Lord President as to completion of the East Wing of the South Kensington Museum buildings, and as to Office accommodation.

Office of Works  
to Department, 7th March.

Transmits copy of letter from the Treasury, intimating Their Lordships' decision not to proceed in the coming financial year with the scheme for completing the South Kensington Museum.

Department to  
Office of Works, 8th May.

Points out that reply made in the House of Commons by Mr. Akers Douglas, that existing plans for completion of Museum might, in view of the Report of the Secondary Education Committee, have to be reconsidered, was evidently based on a misapprehension, as the full space originally provided for would still be required; and asks that, if the East Wing (which would include the new Offices) be not proceeded with, at least a commencement should be made with some other part of the block.

1897.  
Sir John Donnelly,  
4th May.

Submits Memorials from Sir Edward J. Poynter, P.R.A., and others practising various branches of the Arts as a profession, addressed to the Lord President and Vice President, praying that active steps may be taken by Parliament for the completion of the Museum buildings.

Treasury  
(Sir Francis Mowatt)  
to Department, 2nd June.

The attention of their Lordships of the Treasury having been called to the Report of the House of Commons Select Committee on the Museums of the Department states that instructions should be issued that all the inflammable structures, and the official residences of the Museum officers, are to be vacated at once, and that arrangements can be made with the National Gallery for housing the objects for which room cannot be found at South Kensington.

Sir John Donnelly  
to Treasury, 10th July.

States that the iron building in the Museum quadrangle may be removed at once, but should be re-erected on the Imperial Institute Road site: that the "boilers" may be pulled down as well as certain wooden erections in close proximity to the Museum, but that accommodation must be found elsewhere for a large number of clerks if all the temporary structures are to be taken down: and that, as the other old buildings are isolated from the main block, no pressing reason would appear for their immediate destruction. Points out necessity for the retention of the official residences of the Museum officers, and suggests that structural alterations for rendering the residences fire-proof should be carried out piecemeal.



1897.  
Treasury  
(Mr. Hanbury)  
to Department, 24th July.

Submits conclusions of the Treasury, after consultation with the First Commissioner of Works, as to the steps to be taken to place the Museum buildings in a state of reasonable security from fire, viz. :—by the (a) removal of the “boilers” and certain other of the temporary buildings, (b) the alteration of the staircase in the Raphael Gallery so as to render it fireproof, (c) the non-retention of the official residences for Museum officers. The question of the immediate demolition of the remaining temporary buildings, including that in which the Royal Engineer Detachment is quartered, will be postponed for the present.

[The matter of the retention of the official residences formed the subject of a subsequent correspondence between the Lord President and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and it was agreed that the final decision of the question should be left to the Cabinet].

Mr. Trendell  
to Treasury, 5th August.

Points out that the demolition of the old brick houses as proposed by the Treasury would probably lead to the withdrawal of the Royal Engineer fire picquet (the quarters of the Officer in Charge of the detachment being situated in that building), the work of the Science Circulation, Official Photographer, etc., would be stopped and thus cause grave inconvenience to the business of the Department, and the destruction of the Students' Reading and Refreshment Rooms would be a hardship to the students, and suggests that accommodation for the latter should be found in the new temporary iron buildings.

Adds that as regards the official residences it is understood that the question of their removal or alteration has been deferred until the Autumn.

The Lord President to  
The Chancellor of the  
Exchequer, 4th November.

Reviews the prolonged correspondence between the Department, the Treasury, and the Office of Works. States that the Museums Committee of the House of Commons had signified their sense of the importance of completing the Museum Buildings at South Kensington, and urges that he will authorize the Office of Works to take a sufficient amount in the Estimates for 1898-9 for the commencement of the work. Encloses copy of the Artists' Memorial addressed to the Lord President.

Treasury  
(Sir F. Mowatt)  
to Department, 4th Dec.

States that in altered circumstances Mr. Aston Webb's plan approved in 1891 will probably undergo modification and that manner of proposed inquiry into subject is now under consideration, concerning which a communication will very shortly be addressed to Department.

Announces intention of Treasury to ask Parliament to provide during next Session for the necessary expenditure for the New Buildings.

Treasury  
(Sir F. Mowatt)  
to Department, 24th Dec.

Communicates decision of Government to abolish Official Residences and states arrangements for dealing with present occupants and their successors.

[Correspondence ensued in connection with provision for Officers displaced from Official Residences, and their successors.]

1898.  
Major-General Festing and  
Mr. C. Purdon Clarke,  
about 30th March.

Reports proceedings of meeting of the Committee appointed to consider the proposal as to the New Buildings at South Kensington.

Major-General Festing and  
Mr. C. Purdon Clarke,  
20th April.

Reporting upon meeting of Committee on the plans of the New Buildings, states that, in accordance with the Lord President's Minute of 6th inst., it was decided to request Mr. Aston Webb to prepare a new plan of a building adjoining the present Royal College of Science on the South side—but to be detached from the Art Museum—for the Chemical and Physical Laboratories, etc., and the “Scholastic Collections.” Mentions how remainder of site is to be devoted. Committee has again to meet when Drawings are ready.



1898.  
Sir John Donnelly.  
Memo. of 22nd April.

Sir John Donnelly.  
Memo. of 2nd May.

Mr. FitzRoy,  
2nd June.

Mr. C. Purdon Clarke,  
19th August.

Mr. C. Purdon Clarke,  
6th October.

Major-General Festing,  
6th November.

Sir John Donnelly,  
22nd December.

1899.  
Sir John Donnelly  
to Sir John Gorst,  
18th January.

Mr. Brett  
(Office of Works) to  
Sir John Donnelly,  
24th January.

Mr. Brett  
to Department,  
1st March.

Is of opinion that detached Building would be better on the West side of Exhibition Road where the rest of the Science Collections must necessarily remain.

Records visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to Department and inspection by him of Mr. Aston Webb's plan for the completion of the Buildings.

Covers a copy of Memorial by the Royal Society to the Marquis of Salisbury praying that the Science Museum might be housed separately on the West side of the Exhibition Road and not with the Art Collections on the East side of Exhibition Road.

[Sir John Donnelly replied to the Duke of Devonshire's queries on Memorial and returned it with remarks and papers.]

Reports visit of Sir F. Mowatt to Museum to see old furniture, carpets, and pictures, in connection with space required; also as to subsequent interview *in re* he (Mr. Clarke) had with Sir F. Mowatt at the Treasury.

Reports interview with the Lord President and Mr. FitzRoy as to completion of Museum Buildings.

Reports visit of Mr. Aston Webb with sketch plan of the building proposed to be erected opposite the Imperial Institute in which it is intended to provide accommodation for the Physical and Chemical Laboratories of the Royal College of Science and the Science Library. Reports (12th Nov.) further visit of Mr. Aston Webb.

[Sir John Donnelly having called attention to these non-official interviews the Duke of Devonshire explained that they were preliminary to the submission of the modified plans officially by the Office of Works.]

Memo. to Vice-President with remarks by Gen. Festing and Mr. Purdon Clarke on plans of new Museum Buildings, and by Capt. Abney and Council of Professors of Royal College of Science, London, on new Buildings for that College.

Memorandum as to extension of space to be devoted to Royal College of Art by appropriating portion of vacated residences for purposes of College: also recommending another part of residences for use as Museum Offices during alterations in Museum. Proposes that Office of Works be asked to defer remodelling residences with a view to foregoing proposal being carried out.

[Vice President decided that first of all an informal inquiry should be made at Office of Works as to what they are disposed to do in the matter].

Forwards memo. by Sir John Taylor on preceding proposals representing the undesirability of their being carried out, and states that the First Commissioner thoroughly concurs in this opinion.

(Vice-President thereupon decided that matter should not be further pursued.)

States that the design for the new Art Buildings having been approved the necessary clearance will be proceeded with forthwith.